



OPERATIONAL MEMO

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TITLE: 2019 SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

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Purpose and Audience:

This letter is meant to advise counties and eligibility sites of the 2019 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). Please share this agency letter with all affected Adult and Long-Term Care Medicaid eligibility staff, supervisors, and outside agencies, as appropriate.

Background:

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will increase due to a COLA of 2.8% in 2019. The purpose of the COLA is to ensure that the purchasing power of Social Security and SSI benefits is not eroded by inflation. It is based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers from the third quarter of the last year a COLA was determined to the third quarter of the current year.

Beginning January 1, 2019, in addition to SSI, the COLA will also apply to the programs listed in the following section of this letter.

Information/Procedure:

Supplemental Security Income Limits

	Effective January 1, 2019
Individual in own home	\$771
Individual in home of another	\$514
Couple in own home	\$1,157
Couple in home of another	\$771
In-kind Support and Maintenance maximum (ISM)	\$277
300% limit	\$2,313
Old Age Pension	\$809

Nursing Facility

Income Trust Gross Income Limits and Average Private Pay Rate

	January 2018	January 2019
Region I Counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver and Jefferson	\$8,940	\$9,516
Region II Counties: Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Grand, Jackson, Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Park, Phillips, Sedgwick, Summit, Washington, Weld and Yuma	\$8,095	\$8,567
Region III Counties: Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mineral, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Teller	\$7,605	\$8,253
Region IV Counties: Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mesa, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Juan and San Miguel	\$6,674	\$8,118
Average Private Pay Rate	\$7,828	\$8,613

Nursing and Intermediate Care Facility Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)

2018 PNA base amount	Adjustment percent	2019 PNA
\$84.41	3%	\$86.95

Home Maintenance Allowance (HMA)

	January 1, 2019
Individual Needs Standard (INS)	\$2330.73
105% FPL for HH of 1 (2018)	\$1,062.65
HMA Maximum (INS minus 105% FPL, rounded down)	\$1,268.00

Medicare

	January 2018	January 2019
Medicare Part A – Hospital Insurance Seniors and certain individuals under 65 with fewer than 30 work quarters of Medicare covered employment	\$413	\$437
Medicare Part B Physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment and other items	\$109.40 and \$134	\$130 and \$135.50
Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility Co-insurance Days 21 thru 100 each benefit period	\$164.50	\$170.50

Spousal Protection

	January 1, 2018	January 1, 2019
Community Spouse Resource Allowance (CSRA)	\$123,600	\$126,420
Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (Maximum)	\$3,090	\$3160.50
	July 1, 2017	July 1, 2018
Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA)	\$2,030	\$2,058
Shelter Allowance (30% of MMMNA)	\$609	\$617

Home Equity Maximum

January 1, 2018	January 1, 2019
\$572,000	\$585,000

Attachments:

None

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